

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

March 24, 2005

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS, AND PERSONS:

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality has reviewed the proposed Wastewater System Improvements project for the City of Glasgow. The project involves upgrading the existing two-cell aerated lagoon system to a four-cell advanced aerated lagoon facility by removing the existing baffles, aerators, and air header piping to both cells; modifying the existing blower building; and installing a membrane curtain in cells 1 and 2, a new aeration system, fixed film modules for improved ammonia reduction, new yard piping to provide operational flexibility, and a new ultraviolet radiation disinfection system. This project also involves replacing the Southside Lift Station pumps, rehabilitating the wet well, and installing a new backup power supply. All improvements will take place within the boundaries of previously disturbed areas.

It is the Department's judgement that the proposed action meets the criteria for a Categorical Exclusion under ARM 17.40.318 because: 1) the action includes minor upgrading or replacement of existing facilities, and 2) the action is for a community of less than 10,000 persons involving minor upgrading or minor expansion of existing treatment works and does not change existing unit processes and does not directly or indirectly involve the extension of new collection systems. It is the Department's judgment that the proposed project may be granted a Categorical Exclusion because:

1. The facilities will create no new discharges or relocate an existing discharge to surface or ground waters.
2. The facilities will not result in an increase above permit levels established under the Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System or Montana Ground Water Pollution Control System for either volume of discharge or loading of pollutants to receiving waters.
3. The design population for the system improvements is less than 30% greater than the existing population.
4. The action is not expected to have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment nor is the action expected to affect sensitive environmental resource areas.
5. No information has been received by the Department indicating that a public controversy exists over the project's potential to effect the quality of the human environment.

Therefore, pursuant to ARM 17.40.318, a Categorical Exclusion for the above referenced project is granted.

This documentation will be available for public scrutiny upon request at the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Technical and Financial Assistance Bureau in Helena, Montana.

Comments concerning this decision may be addressed to the Department of Environmental Quality, Technical and Financial Assistance Bureau, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, Montana 59620-0901.